



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

JAN 18 2000

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), we enclose for your review the draft Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), January 2001, for Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Implemented Under the Authority of the Fishery Management Plans for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. The document describes the current management regime for groundfish fisheries in Alaska. It also describes and analyzes current knowledge about the physical, biological, and human environment in order to assess impacts caused by past and current fishery activities. Additionally, this SEIS explains to decision makers and the public the effects of the current groundfish fishery management regime, as well as selected alternative management regimes, on the human environment to assess whether a different management regime should be implemented. For purposes of this programmatic SEIS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) presumes that the Alaska groundfish fisheries result in some significant effects, both positive and negative, on the human and natural environments.

Any written comments or questions you have should be submitted to the Responsible Official, James W. Balsiger, Alaska Regional Administrator, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802 by April 26, 2001. Also, one copy of your comments should be sent to me in Room 5805, SP, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Sincerely,

Susan Fruchter

Susan B. Fruchter
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

